

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Oregon Spotted Frog

ESA Status: Proposed Threatened



Photo ©Alan St. John

What is the Oregon spotted frog?

The Oregon spotted frog, the most aquatic native frog in the Pacific Northwest, is named for the black spots that cover the head, back, sides, and legs. It is almost always found in or near perennial bodies of water like marshes, ponds, lakes, and river wetlands. The frog is a good indicator of our water quality and wetland health.

Historically, the Oregon spotted frog could be found from British Columbia to northeastern California. While once known from at least 48 watersheds (three in British Columbia, 13 in Washington, 29 in Oregon, and three in California), it currently occupies 31.

Why is the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service proposing Endangered Species Act protection?

The Oregon spotted frog is a species in decline. Many factors are believed to have caused this decline and continue to threaten this species. This includes loss of habitat, non-native plant invasions, and the introduction of exotic predators such as bullfrogs.

The majority of Oregon spotted frog populations are small and isolated. These factors make the Oregon spotted frog more vulnerable than large connected populations to drought, disease, and predation.

The Service first identified the Oregon spotted frog as a candidate for Endangered Species Act protection in 1993. Because we now know the frog's historic range has been reduced by at least 76% and maybe as much as 90%, this is a critical moment to pursue greater protection.

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Any Questions?

Call: (541) 383-7146

Ask for: Nancy Gilbert or
Jennifer O'Reilly

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Spotted Frog Information Hub

The most comprehensive resource for spotted frog proposed listing activity, including updates, official proposal documents, and Critical Habitat maps, can be found at:

www.fws.gov/wafwo/osf.html

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PROPOSED FOR LISTING?

On August 29, 2013 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) proposed two rules for the Oregon spotted frog:

1. Protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)
2. Critical Habitat designation

This proposal began a process to determine whether or not factors exist that would lead to the eventual extinction of the species.

Endangered Species Act Protection - "Threatened"

As a protected species, Federal agencies would consult under ESA to analyze and minimize effects of their action on the species or its habitat. The responsibility of non-Federal actions would be to not injure or kill the listed species (directly or indirectly through habitat impacts).

Critical Habitat Designation

Along with the ESA status proposal, the Service has proposed to designate 68,192 acres and 23 stream miles as Critical Habitat for the Oregon spotted frog throughout Washington and Oregon; 70% of the acres are on public land.

What is Critical Habitat?

- Habitat that is essential for the conservation of a species that may require special management considerations or protection.
- It is not a refuge or a preserve.
- It does not authorize government or public access to private land.
- It requires consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service only if an activity has Federal involvement (e.g., permits or grants).

How did the Service determine Critical Habitat for the frog?

Critical Habitat was proposed for designation where there is wetland habitat that supports the life stages of the frog such as breeding, rearing, and overwintering. Aquatic movement corridors that allow frogs to disperse between wetland habitats within 5 km (3.1 miles) of breeding locations were also proposed for Critical Habitat designation.

If you're interested in more specific information about Critical Habitat designation for the Oregon spotted frog, please visit: www.fws.gov/wafwo/osf.html

Steps in the Proposal Process

1 Announcement of ESA protection proposal and initial public comment period

2 Release of Economic Analysis and re-opening of public comment period

3 Announcement of final ESA protection decision

To follow the proposed listing process, subscribe to our mailing list: osfmailinglist@fws.gov

Mapping Tools for Private Landowners

For private landowners in the Upper Deschutes River Basin, the USFWS has prepared maps detailing the proposed designation of Critical Habitat for the Oregon spotted frog on private lands. You can find these maps at: www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/FieldOffices/Bend/

What does Oregon spotted frog Critical Habitat look like?

